

For the 50th anniversary of the Capazza gallery,
we are delighted to be joining **BRAFA**
where we will be presenting a solo show
dedicated to the great goldsmith **GOUDJI.**

Goudji was born in Borjomi (Georgia) in 1941 and grew up in Batoumi.

Ever since he was a child, he dreamed of becoming a goldsmith, ever since he discovered this art form in his history books.

He entered the Tbilisi Fine Arts School in the sculpture section, then left Georgia in 1962 to join the Moscow Fine Arts School.

His certainty as a child will be constrained. Goldsmithing was totally forbidden behind the Iron Curtain, so he chose to study applied arts.

In 1969, he married Katherine Barsacq, who worked for the cultural adviser to the French embassy. He then took numerous steps to leave Moscow and return to France. From then on, Goudji was banned from all work by the Soviet authorities.

Thanks to the personal intervention of Georges Pompidou, the couple left Moscow and arrived in Paris on 31 January 1974. « I was born in Paris at the age of 33.»

The collaboration with the Capazza gallery began in 1977, and in a way we 'grew up together'.

Goudji's art has been nourished by his insatiable curiosity for the arts and civilisations of the past, which he combines with elements that are always very contemporary.

Through his research, his discoveries and his imagination, he has succeeded in creating his own timeless, poetic mythology.

A worthy successor to the coppersmiths of his Georgian childhood, in his Montmartre workshop he invents his own technique, designing specific tools for each of his creations.

With his hands, he hammers precious metal and sets hard stones to give life to unique works, «unprecedented combinations of sculpture and goldsmithing».

Many of his works can be seen in public collections (Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris and Lyon, Musée de Fourvière in Lyon, Musée-Château de Blois, Vatican City Museums, etc.).

Goudji's liturgical work is extensive, including Notre-Dame de Paris, Notre-Dame de Chartres, the Pontifical Sacristy of Vatican City, and the Abbaye Sainte-Foy de Conques.

He has also created several swords for academics, including those of Hélène Carrère d'Encausse, Félicien Marceau and Maurice Allais.

Galerie Capazza, **Goudji's historic gallery**, is delighted to be taking part in BRAFA for the first time, with a solo show dedicated to this unique artist.

We will be presenting some thirty artworks, including some created specifically for BRAFA.

« In my opinion, Goudji is the greatest French goldsmith of our time. Thomas Germain was the goldsmith of the 18th century, Froment-Meurice the goldsmith of the 19th century, Puiforcat the goldsmith of the 20th century and Goudji the goldsmith of the 21st century, ».

Daniel Alcouffe

Honorary Curator at the Musée du Louvre